

USPTO Customer No. 25280

Case# 5420

**RESPONSE**

In the Advisory Action dated July 6, 2004, the Examiner maintains the rejection of Claims 1-5 and 7-29 as outlined in the Final Office Action of April 22, 2004.

**35 USC §102 Rejections**

Claims 1-5 and 7-29 were finally rejected under 35 USC § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Groitzsch et al. (US Patent No. 6,448,462 B2).

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitation that the fabric possesses broken fiber-to-fiber bonds that are characteristic of a fabric subjected to the air impingement treatment described in the present application. Support for this amendment is found, for example, in the specification beginning at the bottom of page 6 and ending at the bottom of page 7.

Applicants submit that the Groitzsch reference does not possess this characteristic, since the fabric of Groitzsch has been subjected only to hydroentanglement with high pressure fluid jets for the purpose of splitting the multicomponent fibers into their individual filaments (col. 3, lines 12-31). Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that since the structural limitations set forth in currently amended claim 1 are not met by the Groitzsch reference, this rejection has now been overcome.

**35 USC §103 Rejections**

Claims 1-5 and 7-29 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Groitzsch et al. (US Patent No. 6,448,462 B2).

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitation that the fabric possesses broken fiber-to-fiber bonds that are characteristic of a fabric subjected to the air impingement treatment

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described in the present application. As discussed above, Applicants submit that the Groitzsch reference does not possess this characteristic. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully contend that since the Groitzsch reference fails to teach expressly claimed elements or limitations of Applicants' invention, a *prima facie* showing of obviousness does not exist. Thus, Applicants respectfully believe that this rejection has been overcome.

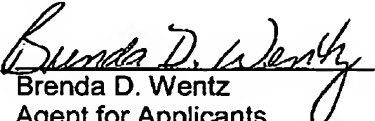
Conclusion:

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5 and 7-29 now stand in condition for allowance.

Should any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment and accompanying Remarks, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned in the hope that any such issue may be promptly and satisfactorily resolved.

Respectfully requested,

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